October 17, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. EDWIN LAND

The attachment indicates recent changes that have been introduced into the satellite reconnaissance program. The aim has been to enhance the capability at an early date while seeking to insure the introduction of the higher resolution capability in the earliest possible time period. The following are the major new elements:

1. The elimination of the "A" flights in 1961 with the substitution of C prime and C triple prime payloads.

2. The Augmentation of the M program from five to 15 firings in 1962.

3. The modification of additional pad facilities to permit a high launch rate of M payloads in 1962. This will provide a capability for three such firings and one NASA firing of a similar vehicle per month.

4. The introduction of a simple cloud cover satellite program employing the SCOUT vehicle for the purpose of giving continuous cloud coverage data on the Sino-Soviet land mass beginning in April or May, 1962.

5. [redacted]

6. [redacted]

Significant management changes have been introduced in the case of various contractors, but in particular in the case of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation where a major reorientation is in process of implementation. The ACEMA overall

reliability of about 50%, the high costs and the long schedule times continue to be of concern. We have initiated a thorough analysis of design procedures, particularly with regard to the AGENA vehicle. A special advisory group has been established under the chairmanship of Mr. C. L. Johnson with the aim of making specific recommendations that can improve quality, shorten schedules and result in a more efficient use of financial resources. The schedule shown in the attachment and the items noted above represent the picture as of today, however, an intensive review of the entire program is being undertaken at present and a full report on the total program and the changes therein will be presented in two or three weeks.

Sincerely,

Joseph V. Charyk

Att.

SECRET

SPECIAL HANDLING

17 Oct

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM

PHOTOGRAPHIC SATELLITES

	61			62												63
	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
A (7/61)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A (10/61)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C (7/61)	-	1	1	-	--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
C (10/61)	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
M (7/61)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
M (10/61)	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
E-5 (7/61)*	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
E-5 (10/61)	-	-	2**	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
E-6 (7/61)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	3
E-6 (10/61)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-

* First two flights slipped due to explosion on pad.
** Second E-5 -Dec 61- under further review due to MIDAS conflict.